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Dialogue of the Domestic

by

Anna Marie House

A thesis submitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Fine Art, Painting

Department of Art and Design

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Spring 2010
Edmonton, Alberta

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Curriculum Vitae

Anna Marie House
703 9707 105 Street,
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
T5K 2Y4 (780) 988-5853
Citizenship: Canadian

Education

- 2008- 2010 University of Alberta, Edmonton Alberta, Canada. MFA Studies in Painting
2004-2006 University of Lethbridge, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada.
BFA with Distinction.
2002-2004 Grant MacEwan College, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.
Fine Art Diploma.
1979-1985 Bay St. George Community College, Stephenville, NFL, Canada.
Professional Chefs Diploma, Red Seal Journeyman.

Grants/Awards

- 2010 Profiling Alberta's Graduate Students Award, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research.
2010 Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Individual Project Grant.
2010 Graduate Student Scholarship
2009 Canadian Artist Development Award, Turtle Technologies, Ottawa, Ontario
2009 Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship. FGSR
2008-2010 University of Alberta, GTA/GRA.
2006 Jason Lang Scholarship.
2005 Province of Alberta International Student Projects Award.
2004 ARAMARK Canada Ltd. Scholarship.
2004 University of Lethbridge, Post Diploma Scholarship.
2003 Jason Lang Scholarship.

Professional History

- 2011 Primary Instructor, Art 134 Winter Term, Visual Fundamentals, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.
2011 Substitute Instructor, Media/ Sculpture, Grant MacEwan University, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.
2010 UAAC Conference presenter, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada.
2010 Primary Instructor, Art 134 Spring Term, Visual Fundamentals, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.
2009 Primary Instructor, Art 134 Fall Term, Visual Fundamentals, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.
2009-2011 Fine Arts examiner, IBIS
2009 Teaching Assistant, Winter Term, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.
2008 Teaching Assistant and Graduate Research Assistant, Fall Term University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.
2009 Teaching Assistant, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.
2008 Teaching Assistant and Graduate Research Assistant, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. (Sept.-Dec.)
2007 English Teacher, (Teaching English through Art) Jinhae, South Korea.
2006-2007 Painting Instructor, Bowman Art Center, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada.
1997- 2002 Proprietor and Head Chef, Culinary Renaissance, Grande Prairie Alberta, Canada.
1995-1997 Cariboo Memorial Hospital, Williams Lake, B.C., Canada. Chef.
1992-1995 Proprietor and Head Chef, North House Catering, Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada.

Special Interests and Community Service History

- 2010 VAAA, Director. Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.
- 2010 Read In, Volunteer. Beacon Heights School, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.
- 2009 UAAC Conference, Volunteer. University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.
- 2009 University of Alberta Museum, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Volunteer. Assisted with the art projects for the Chinese New Year celebrations.
- 2009 Donation of Artwork in support of Camp JYrefly, Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.
- 2008 Workshop Presenter, "Is Art School for Me?" Profiles Public Art Gallery, Saint Albert, Alberta, Canada.
- 2008 Donation of Artwork for the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, "Silent Auction", University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.
- 2008 Donation of Artwork in Support of the Victorian Order of Nurses (Community services), Corner Brook, Newfoundland, Canada.
- 2008 Open House Volunteer, Department of Art and Design, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.
- 2008-2010 Full Member, Alberta Society of Artists. Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.
- 2007 Alberta Community Arts Club, Member. Alberta, Canada.
- 2007 Workshop presenter, Southern Alberta Art Gallery, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada.
- 2007-2010 Trap/Door Artist Association, Member. Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada.
- 2006-07 Trap/Door Artists Association, Board Member. Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada.
- 2006 Lethbridge Artist Club, Board Member. Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada.
- 2005-06 University of Lethbridge, Art Society President. Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada.
- 2004-07 Southern Alberta Art Gallery Volunteer. Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada.
- 2002-04 Grant MacEwan College Student and Alumni Volunteer. Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.
- 1999-2000 Heritage Lodge Volunteer, Grand Spirit Foundation. Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada.

Solo Exhibitions

- 2010 *Dialogue of the Domestic*, FAB Gallery, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.
- 2010-2011 *Considering the Domestic Interior*, The Works Gallery, YMCA, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.
- 2008 *Portraits From The Hive*, The Trignon Gallery, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada.
- 2006 *A Mother's Perspective*, Curves Gallery, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada.
- 2005 *Personal Reflections*, City Hall, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada.
- 2001 *Cornucopia*, Centre for Creative Arts, Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada.
- 2000 *Washes*, Terry and Gerry Jewellers, Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada.

Group Exhibitions

- 2010 *10x10x3*, Trap/Door Artist Run Center, Exhibition and Fundraiser. The Southern Alberta Art Gallery, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada.
- 2009 *Germinations*, FAB Gallery, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.
- 2008 *The Artist Project Toronto 2008*, The Liberty Grande, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Juried.
- 2006 *START Exhibition*, Studio 21, Halifax, NS. Canada. Juried.
- 2006 *Peep*, The Trap Door Annual Show, City Hall, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada.

- 2006 *Art Walk*, Lethbridge Artists Club, Lethbridge Center Mall, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada. Juried
- 2006 *BFA Graduate Exhibition*, University of Lethbridge, Art Gallery. Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada
- 2006 *Annual Student Exhibition*, University of Lethbridge, Art Gallery. Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada. Juried
- 2006 *Survey*, The Allied Arts Council, Yates Theatre, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada. Juried.
- 2006 *Farmhouse Project*, University of Lethbridge, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada Juried
- 2005 *Memorabilia*, The Art Society, University of Lethbridge. Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada. Juried.
- 2005 *Catonia*, Potemptkin Gallery, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada. Juried.
- 2005 *Art Walk*, Penny Coffee House (curator), Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada.
- 2005 *Farmhouse Project*, Brooks, Alberta, Canada. Juried
- 2005 *Cacophony*, Le Petite Trion, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada. Juried
- 2005 *Student Art Show*, Sterling Mutual, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada. Juried
- 2004 *Student Fall Show*, University of Lethbridge, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada. Juried
- 2004 *Fine Arts Graduation Show*, Grant MacEwan College, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.
- 2004 *Art on the Block*, The Edmonton Art Gallery, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.
- 2003 *Spring Fling Show and Auction*, Trumpeter Hotel, Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada.
- 2001 *Tiny Treasures Miniature Show*, Beaverlodge and Area Cultural Centre, Beaverlodge, Alberta, Canada. Juried
- 2001 *Spring Fling Show and Auction*, Trumpeter Hotel, Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada.
- 2001 *Public Library Friends Society*, Show and Silent Auction, The Grande Prairie Public Library. Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada.

Private Collections

- 2008 *Portrait Commission*, Father Wilfred Gommès, St. Joseph Parish, Mission, B.C., Canada.
- 2008 *Capri at Noon*, Salkauski Family, North York, Ontario, Canada.
- 2008 *Cherry Picker*, and *Time for Tea*, Shen Family, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
- 2008 *Commissioned Ocean Series*, Noel Family, Corner Brook, NL., Canada.
- 2008 *Still-life on Lace*, and *Violin Trio*, Lamoureux Family, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
- 2004-2009 Turtle Tec. Inc. Ottawa, Ontario, Canada (10 art works in Collection)
- 2007 *Canadian Landscape Series*, Wonderland School, Jinhae, South Korea.
- 2006 *Violins*, Kingfisher Family, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada.
- 2006 *Portrait*, Grant Family, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.
- 2006 *Portrait*, R. Chaisson, Sarnia, Ontario, Canada.
- 2004 *Urban Life Series*, Pivotal Concept Inc., Pitt Meadows, B.C., Canada.
- 2004 *50th Wedding Anniversary Portrait*, Squires Family, Maple Ridge B.C., Canada.
- 2003 *Nature Series*, Dr. Datar, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.
- 2002 *Alberta Wildlife (On Going Collection)* Dr. P. Sonahara, Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada.
- 2001 *Family Crest*, Gagnon Family, Frankfurt, Germany.

Bibliography

- http://vuwweekly.com/arts/story/deepening_the_domestic/
- <http://www.edmontonjournal.com/entertainment/Dialogue+Domestic+sweet+concoction/3989875/story.html>
- <http://www.foa.ualberta.ca/en/Faculty%20of%20Arts%20News/2010/12/DialogueoftheDomesticrevealshehiddenpartsofhumankind.aspx>
- http://www.artdesign.ualberta.ca/en/Art_and_Design_Events/2010/12/DialogueoftheDomestic.aspx
- <http://www.folio.ualberta.ca/pdfs/101428.pdf>
- Focus on the Arts – May 1, 2006 University of Lethbridge, Notice Board
- <http://www.uleth.ca/artgallery/?p=652>

Dialogue of the Domestic

My artistic practice, long related to the genre of still life, grows out of an interest in the domestic interior. It is profoundly colored by my long experience as a mother, professional chef, and wife. During my daily routine, I find that roles and tasks often overlap: a fine meal may influence the color palette for a new painting; conversely, a brush stroke may influence an embroidery stitch. The domestic interior also provides the platform from which I am able to create work that speaks of nourishment and its relationship to identity. I believe that the seen has a complex relation to the unseen, and the more we look the more is revealed to us.

The theoretical premise underpinning my thesis research and art investigation is that the domestic interior tells a story about relationships and human character. More specifically, I am exploring communication within the domestic space from historical and empirical perspectives. My research has developed into a "Dialogue of the Domestic" that considers the rituals, spaces, objects and materials linking the environment from the domestic sphere with our humanity.

In recent years a growing literature has documented how women in different countries and historical periods found inventive ways to negotiate the limitations of their times and forge their identities as artists. Through research I have gained a better understanding of the changing status of women in "domestic space", and the symbolic power that can be found in the "ordinary" and the "everyday".

Contemporary culture has embraced the domestic sphere as a cornerstone in the social organization of space. Domestic spaces provide a site where family interactions and gendered and class distinctions can be negotiated. These spaces help to define "home", embracing both a physical and a social space. The house itself comprises an important part of the home, as do its material contents and the memories created within it. The home is animated in both time and space in the creation of individual identity, social relations and collective meaning. Life is inherently ephemeral, but domestic spaces symbolically offer a place of refuge where our carefully choreographed movements are repeated daily.

The issue of gender is an important component in my work, where I investigate and consider a woman's communicative agency within the domestic interior, as it serves as a

work space, studio and dynamic living still life. Through the exploration of intimate domestic spaces I was able make sense of my own embodied experiences and their relationship to the process of art making. Embodiment is not passive; it is active and articulate, and plays a complex role in the physical production of my work, as I consider the domestic interior and the creative way things are touched, moved around and guided intuitively, rather than placed based on abstract or strictly informative logic. I believe that intimate objects especially when hand crafted become an extension of the artist's voice and self.

Through this work I argue that the empowerment from communication within the domestic interior is found mainly in the intimate actions carried out through our daily routine, involving the objects and materials associated with meal preparation, consumption, and the preservation of memories.

My work invites serious consideration of the presentation of the self through actions and objects, as there are complex relationships that exist between our identities and the actions and objects that we choose to define us. Can the commemorative potential of those actions and objects operate far beyond the boundaries of the ordinary and temporary, nature and routine of daily life?

I believe that the materialization of family identity reveals that every household displays in its décor- elements that testify to everyday events, and family history. Family identity, in this way, often becomes materialized through household items and decorative objects imbued with symbolic meaning by the persons who created the home space.

My work for Dialogue of the Domestic has developed out of an enthusiastic curiosity, and challenges prevailing assumptions about materials, their uses, and hierarchies of value. It is the very presence of these materials which transforms the space they occupy. The embroidered descriptions in my paintings are intended to engage the surface of the canvas like details that are stuck in one's memory, and the dining room installation to provoke consideration for the expression of individuality that conceals the personal history of its owner and allows us to re-examine the construction of cultural memory as an ongoing process that incorporates real and imagined identities.

Anna Marie House

DEPARTMENT OF ART AND DESIGN

GRADUATE STUDIES

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

I hereby release the following works for incorporation into the University Collections,
University of Alberta, as part of the Master of Fine Arts Thesis Collection:

TITLE	DATE	MEDIUM	SIZE
Arrange whatever pieces come your way	2010	Acrylic on canvas	72"x48"





Anna Marie House DVD Image List

File name: House.01 Title: Conversations with Michelle Date: 2010 Materials: acrylic on canvas with embroidery floss and wool Dimensions: 96" x72"	File name: House.02 Title: Detail of: House.01 Conversations with Michelle Date: 2010 Materials: acrylic on canvas with embroidery floss and wool Dimensions: 96" x72"	File name: House.03 Title: Detail of: House.01 Conversations with Michelle Date: 2010 Materials: acrylic on canvas with embroidery floss and wool Dimensions: 96" x72"	File name: House.04 Title: House.01 Conversations with Michelle, detail Date: 2010 Materials: acrylic on canvas with embroidery floss and wool Dimensions: 96" x72"	File name: House.05 Title: One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well Date: 2010 Materials: acrylic on canvas with embroidery floss and wool Dimensions: 96" x72"	File name: House.06 Title: One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well, detail Date: 2010 Materials: acrylic on canvas with embroidery floss and wool Dimensions: 96" x72"	File name: House.07 Title: One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well, detail Date: 2010 Materials: acrylic on canvas with embroidery floss and wool Dimensions: 96" x72"	File name: House.08 Title: Body of Knowledge/ apron installation Date: 2010 Materials: assorted fabrics Dimensions: 6" x 30 x 12 x 30 RF
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File name: House.09 Title: Body of Knowledge/ apron installation (2) Date: 2010 Materials: assorted fabrics Dimensions: 6" x 30 x 12 x 30 RF	File name: House.10 Title: Body of Knowledge/ apron installation (3) Date: 2010 Materials: assorted fabrics Dimensions: 6" x 30 x 12 x 30 RF	File name: House.11 Title: Body of Knowledge/ apron installation (4) Date: 2010 Materials: assorted fabrics Dimensions: 6" x 30 x 12 x 30 RF	File name: House.12 Title: Body of Knowledge/ apron installation (5) Date: 2010 Materials: assorted fabrics Dimensions: 6" x 30 x 12 x 30 RF	File name: House.13 Title: Body of Knowledge/ apron installation (6) Date: 2010 Materials: assorted fabrics Dimensions: 6" x 30 x 12 x 30 RF	File name: House.14 Title: Body of Knowledge/ apron installation (7) Date: 2010 Materials: assorted fabrics Dimensions: 6" x 30 x 12 x 30 RF	File name: House.15 Title: Body of Knowledge/ apron installation (8) Date: 2010 Materials: assorted fabrics Dimensions: 6" x 30 x 12 x 30 RF	File name: House.16 Title: Body of Knowledge/ apron installation (9) Date: 2010 Materials: assorted fabrics Dimensions: 6" x 30 x 12 x 30 RF
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<p>File name: House.17</p> <p>Title: Body of Knowledge/ apron installation (10)</p> <p>Date: 2010</p> <p>Materials: assorted fabrics</p> <p>Dimensions: 6"x 30 x 12 x 30 RF</p>	<p>File name: House.25</p> <p>Title: Memory Room/ installation detail</p> <p>Date: 2010</p> <p>Materials: icing sugar, fondant and mixed materials</p> <p>Dimensions: 17"x 14"</p>
<p>File name: House.18</p> <p>Title: Memory Room/ installation</p> <p>Date: 2010</p> <p>Materials: icing sugar, fondant and mixed materials</p> <p>Dimensions: 17"x14"</p>	<p>File name: House.26</p> <p>Title: Memory Room/ installation detail</p> <p>Date: 2010</p> <p>Materials: icing sugar, fondant and mixed materials</p> <p>Dimensions: 17" x 14"</p>
<p>File name: House.19</p> <p>Title: Memory Room/ installation detail</p> <p>Date: 2010</p> <p>Materials: icing sugar, fondant and mixed materials</p> <p>Dimensions: 17"x14"</p>	<p>File name: House.27</p> <p>Title: Memory Room/ installation detail</p> <p>Date: 2010</p> <p>Materials: icing sugar, fondant and mixed materials</p> <p>Dimensions: 17"x 14"</p>
<p>File name: House.20</p> <p>Title: Memory Room/ installation detail</p> <p>Date: 2010</p> <p>Materials: icing sugar, fondant and mixed materials</p> <p>Dimensions: 17"x14"</p>	<p>File name: House.28</p> <p>Title: Memory Room/ installation detail</p> <p>Date: 2010</p> <p>Materials: icing sugar, fondant and mixed materials</p> <p>Dimensions: 17" x 14"</p>
<p>File name: House.21</p> <p>Title: Memory Room/ installation detail</p> <p>Date: 2010</p> <p>Materials: icing sugar, fondant and mixed materials</p> <p>Dimensions: 17"x14"</p>	<p>File name: House.28</p> <p>Title: Memory Room/ installation detail</p> <p>Date: 2010</p> <p>Materials: icing sugar, fondant and mixed materials</p> <p>Dimensions: 17"x 14"</p>
<p>File name: House.22</p> <p>Title: Memory Room/ installation detail</p> <p>Date: 2010</p> <p>Materials: icing sugar, fondant and mixed materials</p> <p>Dimensions: 17"x 14"</p>	<p>File name: House.30</p> <p>Title: Memory Room/ installation detail</p> <p>Date: 2010</p> <p>Materials: icing sugar, fondant and mixed materials</p> <p>Dimensions: 17" x 14"</p>
<p>File name: House.23</p> <p>Title: Memory Room/ installation detail</p> <p>Date: 2010</p> <p>Materials: icing sugar, fondant and mixed materials</p> <p>Dimensions: 17"x 14"</p>	<p>File name: House.31</p> <p>Title: Without Proposition</p> <p>Date: 2010</p> <p>Materials: acrylic on canvas with embroidery floss and wool</p> <p>Dimensions: 96" x72"</p>
<p>File name: House.24</p> <p>Title: Memory Room/ installation detail</p> <p>Date: 2010</p> <p>Materials: icing sugar, fondant and mixed materials</p> <p>Dimensions: 17"x 14"</p>	<p>File name: House.32</p> <p>Title: Without Proposition, detail</p> <p>Date: 2010</p> <p>Materials: acrylic on canvas with embroidery floss and wool</p> <p>Dimensions: 96" x72"</p>

File name: House.33
Title: Staging
Date: 2010
Materials: acrylic on canvas with embroidery floss and wool
Dimensions: 72" x 48"

File name: House.34
Title: Staging, detail
Date: 2010
Materials: acrylic on canvas with embroidery floss and wool
Dimensions: 72" x 48"

File name: House.35
Title: Staging, detail
Date: 2010
Materials: acrylic on canvas with embroidery floss and wool
Dimensions: 72" x 48"

File name: House.36
Title: I am my own hiding place
Date: 2010
Materials: acrylic on canvas with embroidery floss and wool
Dimensions: 96" x 72"

File name: House.37
Title: I am my own hiding place, detail
Date: 2010
Materials: acrylic on canvas with embroidery floss and wool
Dimensions: 96" x 72"

File name: House.38
Title: I am my own hiding place, detail
Date: 2010
Materials: acrylic on canvas with embroidery floss and wool
Dimensions: 96" x 72"











































































